

City of Somerville, Health Department
Report to Joint Public Health Board, Board of Health and Mayor's Office
for November 2005
To Be Submitted December 9, 2005 to JPHB

Board of Health

- Board members receive information from Director on convening a Body Art Working Group to address the Apprenticeship Process in the Regulations. Stakeholders from tattoo businesses and other interested parties will meet under the direction of the Director.
- Director seeks support from the Board to hire a coach/planner to assist in developing a Strategic Plan for the Health Department
- Board members receive information on progress of the Health Department with Emergency Preparedness

Director's Updates

- Director sits on Interviewing Committee for Public School District Administrator of Student Services
- Director support presentation of YRBS middle school results to School Committee and press interview on the results
- Director support Somerville Mental Health application to DPH for Suicide Survivors Support Group
- Director coordinates working group of Shape Up Somerville Coordinator
- Director participates in LEPC planning meeting for Somerville Scenario
- Director works closely with 311 Director in transition of Family Advocacy and Community Outreach Calls and program to 311
- Director participates in Evaluation Team and Strategic Realignment Planning of Somerville Cares About Prevention
- Director participates in de-briefing meeting of Healthy Eating by Design Farmers Market
- Director participates in Emergency Dispensing Site Planning at Region 4B Emergency Preparedness. Director meets with Region 4B Coordinator to prioritize EP mandates and access outside supports
- Director convenes meeting with MAPS Director of Prevention to discuss funding and support issues
- Director and Public Health Nurse take Local Public Health Law training in Worcester
- Director convenes Body Art Working group to address Apprenticeship Process
- Director and Public Health Nurse participate in Biowatch planning group

Health Inspectors

Sanitary Inspections

- Responded to 32 complaints, 31 resolved
- Conducted 26 inspections of retail/food establishments, 19 reinspections
- Ten pre-opening visits for potential new businesses

- Attended a seminar in Worcester, Local Public Health and the Law
- Attended LEPC meeting

Housing Inspections

- Responded to 62 complaints, 53 resolved
- Conducted 4 full inspections
- Unit posted unfit for human habitation, elderly gentleman removed
- Responded to several emergencies (carbon monoxide, oil spill, raccoons in attic)
- Met with Modern Pest Extermination for rodent control in the City of Somerville
- Collaborated with the Neighborhood Impact Team

Public Health Nursing

- Attended Metro Boston Homeland Security meetings
- Attended Region 4B meetings
- Supervised four active TB cases
- Investigated 10 communicable disease cases
- Ran 16 flu clinics, provided immunizations to 1600 people, total of 2000 (Initiated flu clinics at four new locations)
- Attended Immigrant Service Providers Meeting, ran flu clinics at Immigrant Health Fair
- Visited 8 homebound residents, provided flu & pneumococcal shots
- Attended “Public Health & the Law” conference

School Nursing

- School Nurses discussed continuing education strategies in monthly nurse’s staff meeting
- School Nurses generate exclusion letters for students who are not in compliance with health mandates
- School nurses statistics for October:
 - Saw 1851 students for first aid visits in October
 - Saw 2549 students for illness assessment in October
 - Saw 1425 for scheduled medication administrations in October
 - Had 1361 communications with parents/guardians in October
 - Had 242 communications with healthcare providers in October
 - Held 4 classroom presentations to 70 students in October
 - Completed 146 postural exams, 29 height/weight, and 75 pediculosis screenings
- SNL attended state mandated Essential school health grant meeting
- SNL received first payment voucher for grant, submitted to City of Somerville
- SNL explaining head lice policy to constituents, mayor’s office and media
- SNL continuing control project about vision
- SNL continues to attend PEP grant planning meetings
- SNL continues work on student health report cards
- SNL nurse reviewing resumes and working with personnel to fill vacant position
- SNL working with school physician to gather asthma data

Somerville Commission for Women

- Somerville Domestic Violence Taskforce: the next meeting is December 14. We will be discussing the group's coordination of grants, collaboration on projects, fundraising, and upcoming projects (tv show, posters on DV in public bathrooms, etc.)
- Dating Abuse: TADA has received the resignation of Susan Kamin (Coordinator of TADA). We are redesigning the program and working with the students. Transition House will work with Sonja Darai to develop a finalized version according to survey results from the TADA students. Sonja Darai will be coordinating the project through June 2006.

Somerville Cares About Prevention

- Presented the middle YRBS to a sub-committee of the Somerville School Committee, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent on November 2nd.
- Met with Carolyn Richards, Director of Guidance for the Somerville School Dept. on November 2nd
- Held our monthly Environmental Strategies Sub-Committee meeting on November 2nd where we continued working on the CMCA logic model.
- Continued working on the coalition's Strategic Realignment
- Co-sponsored the showing of the documentary Hairkutt (a film about AOD) at the Somerville Theater on November 4th.
- Participated at the Immigrant Health Fair November 4 – 5th.
- Evaluation Meeting to discuss the CMCA logic model on Nov 7th and 22nd.
- Met with the new Somerville Health Agenda Coordinator, Jessica Collins, on Nov 8th, to discuss the Coalition and how they can support us.
- Met with MADD on Nov 14th to discuss our participation in the Sticker Shock campaign.
- Participated in the Youth Workers Network meeting on Nov 14th.
- A Somerville team participated in the Mass Forum on Nov 16th.
- Conducted a leadership training for our youth on Nov 16th.
- Conducted a prevention curriculum review with the Opiate Prevention Task Force on Nov 15th.
- Attended a SAMHSA sponsored conference focused on the Strategic Prevention Framework on Nov 29-30th.

Tobacco Control

Youth Access

- Tobacco retailer compliance checks in:
 - Cambridge (Checked: 27, Sale: 0) Current rate of sale FY05: 3.7%
 - Chelsea (Checked: 53, Sale: 0) Current rate of sale FY05: 2.2%
 - Everett (Checked: 50, Sale: 0) Current rate of sale FY05: 0.5%
 - Revere (Checked: 59, Sale: 1) Current rate of sale FY05: 2.2%
- Tobacco retailer educational inspections in:
 - Cambridge (Visited: 11, Signage Violations: 7, warnings: 7: warnings)
- Mailings
 - Somerville: 250 pieces
 - Cambridge: 290 pieces

- Chelsea: 60 pieces
- Everett: 59 pieces
- Revere: 91 pieces
- Retailer Training:
 - Somerville (11/15/05, 4 attendees)
 - Cambridge (11/17/05 6 attendees)

ETS

- Secondhand smoke inspections in:
 - Everett (Inspected: 22, Signage violations: 3)
 - Somerville (Inspected: 3, no violations)

Trauma Response Network

- Attended 2 TRN Leadership Mtgs. 11/7, 11/21
- Attended meeting of the MA Coalition on Suicide Prevention 11/21
- Attended Opiate Task Force Meeting – 11/22
- Performed advocacy for youth affected by trauma of last year
- Performed advocacy for family affected by trauma of last year via several community agencies and mayor's office
- Execute rough draft of trauma brochure for editing process
- Performed outreach and sign-up for December PTSM Orientation Practice Session
- Continued recon and outreach on OD/death of Somerville woman 10/25
- Performed reconn re: report of OD death of Somerville youth, which turned out not to be death
- Attended Youth Worker/Coaches Conversations meetings to begin work on funded grant – 11/1, 11/4, 11/15/11/28 – Presented to Youth Workers Network Steering Committee 11/1
- Created work plan for Youth Workers/Coaches Conversations
- Met with group to discuss Grant proposal for Suicide Survivor's Group in Somerville 11/3
- Performed Coping Group for workers from CTRF who gave service to Katrina evacuees in MA – 11/2
- Helped staff flu clinics – 11/3, 11/4
- Attended Youth Worker's Network meeting 11/15
- Met with TRN community member to network
- Performed reconn and outreach re: memorial event for suicide victim